

CLAIMS

What we claim is:

1. A method to facilitate a search of a database utilizing multiple search criteria, the method including:
 - receiving first and second search criteria from a user; and
 - presenting the user with an option selectively to include and exclude each of the first and second search criteria from a search query run against the database.
2. The method of claim 1, which includes conducting a search of the database utilizing the search query, the search query including at least one of the first and second search criteria as included by the user.
3. The method of claim 1, which includes:
 - presenting a search interface to the user to receive the first and the second search criteria, the search interface providing the user with a limitation option to limit a scope of any search query including the first search criteria;
 - monitoring selection of the limitation option by the user; and
 - monitoring an indication from the user that indicates inclusion or exclusion of each of the first and second search criteria within the search query.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the database forms part of a network-based commerce facility.
5. The method of claim 4, wherein the network-based commerce facility is a network-based auction facility and the first and the second search criteria are associated with listings of products up for auction on the auction facility.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the network-based auction facility is a web-based auction facility, the method including rendering to the user a web page including:

a first search criteria section for receiving the first search criteria from the user; and

a second search criteria section for receiving the second search criteria from the user, the second search criteria being associated with one of a plurality of categories in which listings are arranged.

7. The method of claim 6, wherein the second search criteria section provides a plurality of optional search criteria at least one of which is selectable by the user to define the second search criteria.

8. The method of claim 5, which includes:

responsive to a first search request from the user, conducting a first search of the database to locate listings based on a first search query, wherein the first search query includes the first search criteria but not the second search criteria;

responsive to a second search request from the user, conducting a second search of the database to locate listings based on a second search query, wherein the second search query includes both the first and the second search criteria; and

responsive to a third search request from the user, conducting a third search of the database to locate listings based on a third search query, wherein the third search query includes the second search criteria but not the first search criteria.

9. The method of claim 1, wherein the first search criteria is a keyword that identifies at least one category of listings included within the database, and the

second search criteria is an attribute associated with a listing stored in the database.

10. The method of claim 1, wherein the first search criteria is a keyword that identifies at least one category of listings included within the database, and the second search criteria identifies at least one sub-category of the at least one category.

11. The method of claim 3, wherein the search interface maintains a display of each of the first and second search criteria, regardless of whether the first and second search criteria are each selected by the user to be included within the search query.

12. A machine-readable medium embodying a sequence of instructions for facilitating a search of a database utilizing multiple search criteria, the instructions, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to:

- receive first and second search criteria from a user; and
- present the user with an option selectively to include and exclude each of the first and second search criteria from a search query run against the database.

13. The machine-readable medium of claim 12, wherein a search of the database is conducted utilizing the search query, the search query including at least one of the first and second search criteria as included by the user.

14. The machine-readable medium of claim 12, wherein:

- a search interface is presented to the user to receive the first and the second search criteria, the search interface providing the user with a limitation option to limit a scope of any search query including the first search criteria;
- selection of the limitation option by the user is monitored; and

an indication from the user is monitored that indicates inclusion or exclusion of each of the first and second search criteria within the search query.

15. The machine-readable medium of claim 12, wherein the database forms part of a network-based auction facility and the first and the second search criteria are associated with listings of products up for auction on the auction facility.

16. The machine-readable medium of claim 15, wherein the network-based auction facility is a web-based auction facility that renders to the user a web page including:

- a first search criteria section for receiving the first search criteria from the user; and

- a second search criteria section for receiving the second search criteria from the user, the second search criteria being associated with one of a plurality of categories in which listings are arranged.

17. The machine-readable medium of claim 16, wherein the second search criteria section provides a plurality of optional search criteria at least one of which is selectable by the user to define the second search criteria.

18. The machine-readable medium of claim 16, wherein:

- responsive to a first search request from the user, a first search of the database is conducted to locate listings based on a first search query, wherein the first search query includes the first search criteria but not the second search criteria;

- responsive to a second search request from the user, a second search of the database is conducted to locate listings based on a second search query, wherein

the second search query includes both the first and the second search criteria;
and

responsive to a third search request from the user, a third search of the database is conducted to locate listings based on a third search query, wherein the third search query includes the second search criteria but not the first search criteria.

19. The machine-readable medium of claim 12, wherein the first search criteria is a keyword that identifies at least one category of listings included within the database, and the second search criteria is an attribute associated with a listing stored in the database.

20. The machine-readable medium of claim 12, wherein the first search criteria is a keyword that identifies at least one category of listings included within the database, and the second search criteria identifies at least one sub-category of the at least one category.

21. The machine-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the search interface maintains a display of each of the first and second search criteria, regardless of whether the first and second search criteria are each selected by the user to be included within the search query.

22. A system to facilitate searching of a database using multiple search criteria, the system including at least one server to:

receive first and second search criteria from a user; and

present the user with an option selectively to include and exclude each of the first and second search criteria from a search query run against the database.

23. The system of claim 22, wherein a search of the database is conducted utilizing the search query, the search query including at least one of the first and second search criteria as included by the user.

24. The system of claim 22, wherein:
a search interface is presented to the user to receive the first and the second search criteria, the search interface providing the user with a limitation option to limit a scope of any search query including the first search criteria;
selection of the limitation option by the user is monitored; and
an indication from the user is monitored that indicates inclusion or exclusion of each of the first and second search criteria within the search query.

25. The system of claim 22, wherein the database forms part of a network-based auction facility and the first and the second search criteria are associated with listings up for auction on the auction facility.

26. The system of claim 25, wherein the network-based auction facility is a web-based auction facility that renders to the user a web page including:
a first search criteria section for receiving the first search criteria from the user; and
a second search criteria section for receiving the second search criteria from the user, the second search criteria being associated with one of a plurality of categories in which listings are arranged.

27. The system of claim 26, wherein the second search criteria section provides a plurality of optional search criteria at least one of which is selectable by the user to define the second search criteria.

28. The system of claim 27, wherein:

responsive to a first search request from the user, a first search of the database is conducted to locate listings based on a first search query, wherein the first search query includes the first search criteria but not the second search criteria;

responsive to a second search request from the user, a second search of the database is conducted to locate listings based on a second search query, wherein the second search query includes both the first and the second search criteria; and

responsive to a third search request from the user, a third search of the database is conducted to locate listings based on a third search query, wherein the third search query includes the second search criteria but not the first search criteria.

29. The system of claim 22, wherein the first search criteria is a keyword that identifies at least one category of listings included within the database, and the second search criteria is an attribute associated with a listing stored in the database.

30. The system of claim 22, wherein the first search criteria is a keyword that identifies at least one category of listings included within the database, and the second search criteria identifies at least one sub-category of the at least one category.

31. The system of claim 24, wherein the search interface maintains a display of each of the first and second search criteria, regardless of whether the first and second search criteria are each selected by the user to be included within the search query.

32. A system to facilitate searching of a database using multiple search criteria, the system including:

means to receive first and second search criteria from a user; and

means to present the user with an option selectively to include and exclude each of the first and second search criteria from a search query run against the database.